

## **JOPPA/JOPPATOWNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Meeting Number 135

October 7, 2013

The Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the Office of the Sheriff Southern Precinct meeting room, first floor, beginning at 7:00 P.M. except for July and August. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate.

**\*Opening:** By Chairperson Paula Mullis. It was followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Members present were Paula Mullis, Gloria Moon, James B. Lyons, Bob Frisch, and Vincent Rabenau. Former JJCC member JoAnn M. Macdonald was Acting Secretary. Absentees: Doris Carey (Secretary), Yvonne Baldwin, Betty Byrne, and Ron Sollod. Chairperson Mullis welcomed all community members and requested council members to introduce themselves.

She then called for a motion to approve the Minutes from Meeting No. 134, September 9, 2013; Motion seconded, approved and Council approved the Minutes.

**\*Acknowledgement of Special Guests:** Chair of the Jarrettsville/Norrisville Community Council Dave Seman who is also the Republican candidate for District 7 in next year's Primary Election; also, Rev. Adam Schellenberger of the Joppatowne Christian Church. Paula added that she has repeatedly asked for County Executive David Craig to speak to the JJCC; to no avail.

**\*Sheriff's Office Community Policing Report: Captain J. Krass:** Hand-out --Crime Analysis report Sector 10, Post 11 (Joppa): The report compared MONTHLY between September 2012 and 2013: 1) Top 3 calls for Service Comparison, 2) Total Calls for Service, 3) Total Crashes, and 4) Part One Crime Comparison. All are important; however, the most common crimes were: Robbery, Burglary, Auto Theft and Theft of which all decreased; Assault increased. For further information please contact Aaron Stewart of the Crime Analysis Unit at the Southern Precinct: 410-836-5477. Southern Precinct Open House to be October 27, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; "Community Demonstrations" at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Discussion with community members and Captain Krass re: much older non-students playing basketball on the Riverside Elementary property during school hours; continuing problem of speeders on Old Joppa Road and on Mountain Road—not enough deputies available for patrol.

**\*Update for Edgewood/Joppatowne Fourth of July Carnival & Parade:** Susan Heselton not present; Dion Guthrie gave information: "It did well."

**\*County Council and Community Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie:** a) Mariner Point Swim Club property—he spoke with real estate agent for the prospective buyer (church): he was told "No back-up contracts allowed." Discussion followed with Fran Salbeck. However, the petition is still online:

ipetitions.com/Save the Joppatowne Pool. b) Plecker's property on Philadelphia Road. The buildings are being demolished; *community must remain diligent to further activity. "We still have our T-shirts!"*

**\*Board of Education Update from Bob Frisch, School Board Member:** Bob firmly called attention to the Budget planning beginning right now. The Interim Superintendent (Barbara Canavan) set start dates for information on the process: week of 10/21: 10/22—Public Forum at C. Milton Wright High at 5 p.m.; on 10/25 another Public Forum at Patterson Mill High at 3:30 p.m. "Give opinions: the sooner, the better than later." Check HCPS website for an online video to link to the budget process. Public input is absolutely necessary! In December the School Board starts the budget process discussions with the Superintendent, County Executive and the County Council. The Board of Education *needs public input*—at every board meeting or online at their webpage. Bob informed the group that *there is better communication with the new leadership under Mrs. Canavan. The most important decision the Board will make is to hire a Superintendent. They want public involvement.*

Discussion from audience: RE: 1) re: people moving out of Joppatowne regarding schools. Bob offered several reasons for parents shifting districts and even counties—politics, lack of money for renovations, maintenance, etc. from several sources. 2) Business people on school board may have a procurement attitude—from their perspective do with fewer personnel to save money. Bob offered that there is always tension between the county government and the school board. 3) Bob reported the cancellation of a microbiology course at Fallston High due to less personnel and only a handful of students registered for the course which justified cancellation. And at the Harford Technical High—no plumbing courses! "There is a cost to cutting salaries and personnel," he said. 4) The budget is online and he suggested it will be a "flat line budget" again; *the public needs to state its priorities*. Bob posed this question: "What would you be willing to give up?"

More on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP): "Dollars look large, with about 70% tied in for 1) renovations to Fallston High; 2) replacing Youth's Benefit Elementary with new building; 3) \$20. Million is mandated in technical equipment—Common Core, e.g., Math & Science Academy 6-year-old computers need replacement; maintenance. Excellent programs at Edgewood and Joppatowne High schools.

Dion Guthrie added this to discussion of budget: Teachers came to recent Co. Council meeting. On agenda—"pay to play", transportation, curriculum funding; he stated no more money coming this year—the D.C. problems filter down.

**\*More from Dion Guthrie:** County Council issues: A) He introduced a bill concerning the Maryland State "Rain Tax". Co. Exec. David Craig, Councilman Joe Woods and he agreed to work together to eliminate the Rain Tax. "Every county should pay the same (tax)." Companies such as Thompson Toyota

and Kohl's stores pay less tax, and Harford Mall pays 0 taxes! B) County Council made a loan to manufacturing company Independent Can Company for education and training of machinists. They employ 80 people; are in county 30 years. C) "Octoberfest" at APG cancelled due to government shutdown; may be rescheduled for late October. D) Anderson Hardware to rebuild after fire (!) E) Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company (JMVFD) had an Open House. F) Edgewood Epicenter located in the old Ames Shopping center on U.S. route 40. Mountain Christian Church (from Rt. 152) is remodeling space for additional Services, activities to be held there. G) Fire Marshal controls the fact that Mountain Christian Church has fireworks about every weekend. H) Congratulations to Lydia (his assistant) for doing his District A Newsletter every week.

**\*Community Updates from Community Council Members and Community:**

**James Lyons:** Jim agreed that the JMVFD Open House was successful. He reported the numbers of calls of all kinds. Response time for emergency vehicles—depends, of course; under 1 minute, under 5 minutes; county-wide is 7 minutes. Two EMS crews paid—2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> crews; after 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. manned by volunteers. He is proud of excellent coverage of developments. With increasing number of developments comes the need for increased ambulance, fire and police coverage. All hospitals in region, including Franklin Square in Baltimore County, frequently have full ER's. "911" is under construction.

**Paula Mullis:** Thanked the community for its support and encouraged more support and attendance from neighbors and friends. She called for more community involvement re: Plecker's property and Mariner Pool. Noted that Sen. Barry Glassman is running for County Executive when David Craig's term ends in 2014. Reminded October 19<sup>th</sup> is Harford County Crop Walk with a 5K Run/Walk at Aberdeen Festival Park. Also remember the Prince of Peace Sharing Table on Saturdays. AND: on October 26<sup>th</sup> the Harford Land Trust's Fundraiser at the Bel Air Armory on Main Street.

**JoAnn Macdonald:** Stated that this meeting is evidence of democracy in action, and thanked everyone for attending.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:56 p.m., Paula made motion; several members seconded. Next Meeting, No. 136, to be on November 4, 2013.

*Minutes by JoAnn Macdonald*